



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 3**

**Meeting Date:** March 27, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Kosciusko County Justice Building

**Council Members Present:** Mike Carroll, Marshall County DCS; Tony Sommer, Elkhart DCS; Chuck Smith, St. Joseph County DCS; Sally Mahnken, Kosciusko County CASA; The Honorable Duane G. Huffer, Kosciusko Superior Court I; Terri Zorning, St. Joseph County DCS; Peggy Shively, Kosciusko DCS and Linda Cioch, Regional Manager

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Peter Nemeth, Magistrate Deborah Domine

**Others In Attendance:** Jennifer Staggenburg, Hazel Hoover, Whites Residential and Family Services; Kim Lalimean, Brandy Wright, Midwest Center for Youth and Family Services

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
------------------------

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 10:10 a.m.

1. Foster Parent membership on Regional Services Council was discussed briefly. A name has been submitted and Linda will verify if this foster parent lives in our region.
2. Chuck Smith stated that his Advocacy Center has some concerns for the Service Standards listed for those services. According to Linda these are being discussed as other advocacy centers are experiencing some bumps in the road.

3.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Service Standards and selection of an IV-B provider for the Communities for Child Safety. Oaklawn and Family Focus

are the two providers that officially submitted a proposal for our region. Dunebrook and SCAN have submitted proposals for other regions and it would be possible for us to request a proposal from them. New proposals can be solicited from a provider that submitted a proposal for a particular service even if they did not originally submit for our region. Linda informed that the directors had discussed having the provider for the Communities for Child Safety not actually provide all of the service but sub contract for services.

In discussing the use of mental health centers as providers, it was mentioned that there are three mental health centers in our region and that selection of one could damage local relationships. Also, the services provided through this service standard are not necessarily mental health services but more preventative in nature.

Because of the cost of start up there is some sense in having a region wide contract though there are drawbacks. It will take an outside provider time to get to know the community and the individual services located in each community. The necessity/possibility of 24 hour service was discussed with regards to the responsibilities for 24 hour helpline. Terri Zorning asked for clarification regarding how the provider would know if there is a current CPS investigation and also how “current” is being defined.

Chuck Smith has questions regarding the staff qualifications which seem high if the provider is more of a referral source than a direct provider of services. It was decided that we would like more information and definitions. Linda will ask that possible providers attend our April Regional Services Council meeting and describe their concept of the service. Celia Laird will also be invited as she is overseeing the contract process in Central Office and has perhaps the clearest concept of the service. Linda iterated the changing philosophy of DCS that we are no longer going to be all things to all people. She indicated that the role of the case managers will be changing and instead of just “managing” a case DCS will be doing more of the casework in house. Duane Huffer asked if this will mean that people will call the DCS who will refer them to an agency who will then refer them for services. Hopefully, Celia Laird can help clarify this concept.

#### 4. Miscellaneous issues were discussed.

Duane Huffer asked if the state is pushing for Family Planning. He is making referrals to both Planned Parenthood and Heartline.

A discussion was held regarding who should sign for emergency surgeries. County directors have been signing. Liability issues were discussed and protocols with the courts.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** Bremen was discussed as a Central Meeting Location. Mike Carroll agreed to investigate the possibility of a meeting place in Bremen as well as Plymouth. It was clarified that the meetings will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. The next meeting will be April 24, 2006, at 10:00a

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 11:05a.m.